



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM



**SAFE, SMART,
SOLUTIONS FOR IOWA**



The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Household Hazardous Materials (HHM) program provides a wide array of opportunities for Iowans to learn about proper purchasing, use, storage, disposal and dangers related to common household products. HHM programs also provide Iowans with proper disposal opportunities. The DNR's HHM programs are funded through a portion of the solid waste tonnage fee and HHM retailer permits.

This report discusses actions undertaken and results from the DNR's HHM program and its stakeholder partners in Fiscal Year 2010.

THE IMPACT OF HHMs

HHMs are found in nearly every home; under every sink, in closets, basements and garages. Consequently, nearly every household (and business) in the state generates household hazardous waste. Care should be taken to manage this waste independently from other household (and business) wastes. Improper disposal of HHMs has a negative impact on the environment and aquatic life; potentially contaminating groundwater, surface water and land, impacting air quality and compromising the effectiveness of septic systems and wastewater treatment plant operations.

HHMs are also associated with adverse health and environmental concerns. Health effects caused by hazardous waste can be acute (sudden or immediate onset of severe symptoms) or chronic (gradual onset of symptoms occurring through repeated exposure over an extended period of time). Environmental effects can include fires, explosions and toxic fumes, negative impacts on wastewater treatment and septic system effectiveness and contamination of land and water resources.

HHMs are the leading cause of poisonings in children. For the months of January-November in 2010, the Iowa Poison Control Center reported nearly 9,480 exposures to HHMs. Of reported poisonings, 55 percent occurred in children under the age of six.

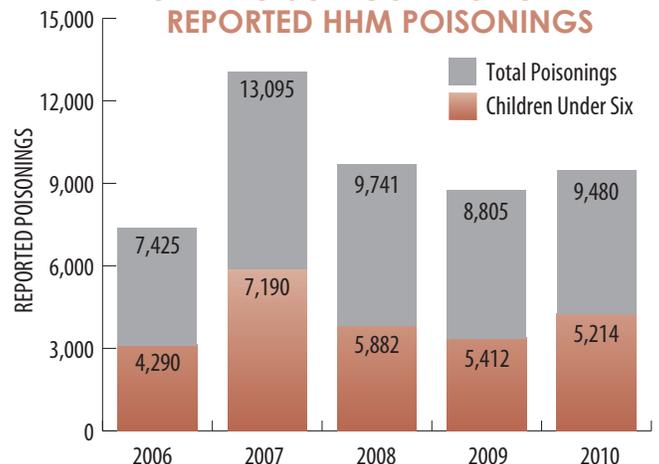
What exactly is a Household Hazardous Material?

A Household Hazardous Material (HHM) is a term defining common household products that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- TOXIC:** poisonous, causing cancer or other health problems
- CORROSIVE:** destroys human tissue or corrodes metal
- FLAMMABLE:** easily ignitable
- REACTIVE:** explosive through exposure to heat, sudden shock, pressure or comes into contact with incompatible chemicals

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is commonly defined as waste from residential sources composed of old or unwanted products that exhibit any of the characteristics of HHMs. In Iowa, businesses generating small amounts of hazardous waste are included in the definition of HHW and eligible to participate in DNR programs.

IOWA POISON CONTROL CENTER REPORTED HHM POISONINGS



REGIONAL COLLECTION CENTERS



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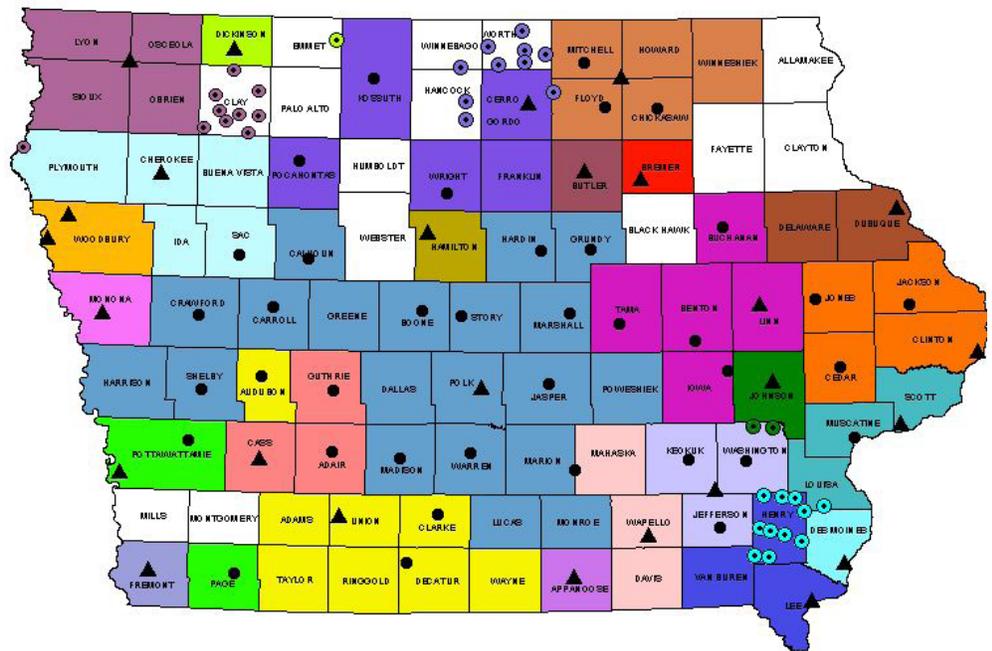


Regional Collection Centers (RCCs) are permanent collection facilities designed to assist the public and conditionally exempt small quantity generator (CESQG) businesses with proper management and disposal of HHMs. RCCs accept hazardous waste for disposal either through local outlets or through contracted service and also provide a materials exchange (Swap Shop) for usable materials and educate citizens about proper purchasing, storage and management techniques for HHMs.

RCCs IN IOWA

Currently 26 main facilities and 38 satellite facilities are operating across the state serving a total of 89 counties. RCCs experienced an increase in the amount of materials collected in FY 2010. Nearly 5 million pounds of HHMs were removed from the solid waste stream: an 18 percent increase from FY 2009.

For local RCC contact information go to www.safesmartolutions.com



▲ RCC Main Facilities ● Satellites ⊙ Serviced Cities

Regional Collection Center Service Areas

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Appannose Co. RCC | Fremont Co. RCC | NIASWA RCC |
| Bremer Co. RCC | Great River RCC | NIASWA Cities |
| Butler Co. RCC | Hamilton | PCB RCC |
| Cass Co. RCC | Haz Chem RCC | Prairie SWA RCC |
| CR/Linn Co. RCC | Haz Chem Cities | SEMCO |
| Clinton Co. RCC | Iowa City City | Sioux City RCC |
| Council Bluffs RCC | Iowa City Cities | Wapello Davis RCC |
| Dickinson Co. RCC | LNI RCC | Waste Comm of Scott Co. RCC |
| Dickinson Cities | LNI Serviced Cities | Woodbury Co. RCC |
| Dubuque Co. RCC | Metro Waste RCC | Unserviced areas |
| FMC RCC | Monona Co. RCC | |

THE BENEFITS OF RCCs

- Permanent availability, often year-round
- Increased surface and groundwater protection
- Increase in worker safety for both solid waste collectors and landfill operators
- Decrease in hazardous exposures to humans and pets
- Reduced potential for damage to sewer and septic systems from improper disposal
- Ongoing education for Iowa residents
- Available for eligible businesses, schools, etc.



REGIONAL COLLECTION CENTER PROGRAM FY 2010 SUMMARY & ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
PROGRAM INVESTMENT	
Establishment Grants	\$170,601
Operating Assistance Support	\$463,080
TOTAL PROGRAM INVESTMENT FOR FY 2010	\$633,681
MATERIALS MANAGED by HAZARD TYPE	
TOXIC Examples: pesticides, poison	107,569 lbs.
CORROSIVE Examples: drain cleaners, mercury	29,112 lbs.
FLAMMABLE Examples: lighter fluid, aerosols, thinners, oil-based paint	275,513 lbs.
REACTIVE Examples: pool chemicals, toilet bowl cleaners, ammonia	9,352 lbs.
MATERIALS MANAGED by COMMON PRODUCT TYPE	
E-WASTE Examples: computers, televisions, cell phones	1,019,670 lbs.
FLUORESCENTS	81,139 lbs.
LEAD-ACID BATTERIES	166,761 lbs.
MOTOR OIL	539,889 lbs.
OTHER MATERIALS Examples: used oil filters, anti-freeze, rechargeable batteries	841,020 lbs.
PAINTS	910,144 lbs.
HHM's REUSED LOCALLY THROUGH EXCHANGE/SWAP SHOP	345,116 lbs.
SUBTOTAL CONTRACTED HHM DISPOSAL	2,135,234 lbs.
SUBTOTAL HHM's MANAGED LOCALLY	2,349,695 lbs.
TOTAL AMOUNT OF HHM's MANAGED	4,830,045 lbs.
Number of Participant Households	30,555
Average HHMs collected per participant	244 lbs.
Number of Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Businesses (CESQG)	1,221
Average HHMs Collected per Business (CESQG)	250 lbs.



IOWA HHM EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The DNR has finished production of a multi-media campaign with project partner ME&V producing Television, Radio, Video, and Print ads. Computer games were also produced for multiple age groups, 4-6th grade, 7th- 9th and High School - Adult. As required by Iowa Code, the department provides HHM materials in retailer stores that coordinate with the statewide education campaign and inform Iowans about proper HHM management. The education campaign slogan "Change our Ways, Change our World" is intended to show how small changes result in large benefits and focuses on four distinct messages to the public:

- Read the label
- Proper purchasing
- Use and store safely
- Proper disposal

The four linked messages will be strategically introduced over the next few years. The statewide education campaign will begin in spring 2011, including consumer education material distributed to retailers. Regional Collection Centers will be provided a media kit with all campaign materials to tailor to their particular service areas to promote local education, awareness and proper disposal.



Household Hazardous Materials

Make our chores and projects easier, but they:

- Require special care
- Are the No. 1 cause of poisonings in children
- May contaminate land and water resources

Change the way we...

- Read labels
- Purchase
- Use and store
- Dispose of Household Hazardous Materials

What can we do now?

- Look for "GREEN" alternatives
- Purchase only what you need
- Read product label for use, storage and disposal recommendations

Go to www.SafeSmartSolutions.org
Find out more about **Household Hazardous Materials** and free Regional Collection Center disposal.

Change Our Ways. Change Our World.



DNR
Iowa Department
of Natural Resources
515.281.5918

TOXICS IN PACKAGING

Iowa's Toxics in Packaging law prohibits the sale or distribution of packaging containing heavy metals such as cadmium, lead, mercury, and hexavalent chromium if intentionally introduced and sets limits on incidental presence of these heavy metals in packaging materials.

The purpose of this law is to prevent these toxic heavy metals from entering the environment, recycling stream, landfills, and waste incinerators. The Toxics in Packaging Clearing House (TPCH), a joint organization of ten states including Iowa, had many noteworthy achievements in FY2010 including the following:

- TPCH and Iowa received an EPA Environmental Merit Award in April 2010 for its achievements in reducing the toxicity of packaging entering the solid waste stream. EPA's Environmental Merit Award is an annual award that recognizes outstanding environmental advocates who have made significant contributions toward preserving and protecting our natural resources.
- The press release from the TPCH report, *An Assessment of Heavy Metals in Packaging: 2009 Update*, generated significant press coverage within key target audiences, including Packaging Digest, Flexible Packaging Association, and the Home Fashion Products Association.
- A packaging screening project was launched in the spring of 2010 using x-ray fluorescent (XRF) technology to detect the presence of regulated metals in packaging.
- A comparative assessment of test results generated by independent laboratories is being conducted to assure that toxics in packaging performance objectives are met by the various labs that companies often use to test their packaging.

For more information go to www.toxicsinpackaging.com

